

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 COME-00 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5145

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 0310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PORG, MP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 86710, (B) STATE 12320

1. MAURITIUS IS A CONSTITUTIONAL STATE FOLLOWING THE BRITISH PATTERN. PROTECTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BY REASON OF RACE, PLACE OF ORIGIN, POLITICAL OPINION, COLOR, CREED OR SEX IS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER II OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MAURITIUS. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS PERMITTED AND ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION, TORTURE, UNFAIR TRIALS AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT CONDONED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN INTERNATIONAL FORA MAURITIUS VOTES WITH THE "THIRD WORLD". BLOC IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. DURING COLONIAL PERIOD EMERGENCY POWERS ORDERS IN COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY. CERTAIN RIGHTS, SUCH AS FREE ASSEMBLY, COULD BE RESTRICTED FOR THE DURATION OF THE EMERGENCY. ON DECEMBER 28, 1970, THE PARLIAMENT OF MAURITIUS ENACTED A PUBLIC ORDER ACT CONSOLIDATING AND AMENDING EARLIER LEGISLATION DEALING WITH PUBLIC ORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CIVIL DISTURBANCES. ON DECEMBER 16, 1971, A STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED AND IS STILL IN EFFECT. UNDER THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY ORDERS,
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PERMITS CAN BE REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS IN ADVANCE,

NEWSPAPERS CAN BE CENSORED, AND OTHER CONTROLS CAN BE EXERCISED.
HOWEVER, SINCE THE PUBLIC DISTURBANCES IN 1971 ENDED THE ORDERS
HAVE NOT BEEN RIGOROUSLY ENFORCED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NEWSPAPERS
ARE FREE TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT AND OFTEN VEHEMENTLY
DO SO. LEADERS OF THE 1971 DISTURBANCES ARRESTED AT THAT TIME
WERE RELEASED AND ARE PRESENTLY ACTIVELY PURSUING THEIR
POLITICAL CAREERS.
MANHARD

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Message Attributes

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